

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (original) A process for preparing diaminodiarylmethanes comprising the steps
 - a) reacting an aromatic amine with a methylene-donating agent in the presence of homogeneous acid catalysts,
 - b) removing the homogeneous acid catalyst from the reaction product,
 - c) working up and purifying the reaction product,which comprises removing the homogeneous acid catalyst from the reaction mixture by adsorption to a solid adsorbent and the adsorbent is regenerated with the amine which is used as the feed product of the process.
2. (original) The process according to claim 1, wherein the adsorbent is a basic ion exchanger prepared on the basis of higher oligomers of diphenylmethanediamine or on the basis of functionalized support material.
3. (original) The process according to claim 1, wherein the base strength of the adsorbent differs by ± 1.0 pK_B units from that of the aromatic amine in aqueous solution.
4. (original) The process according to claim 1, wherein the base strength of the adsorbent differs by ± 0.5 pK_B units from that of the aromatic amine in aqueous solution.
5. (currently amended) The process according to claim 1, ~~wherein the~~ further comprising desorbing said acid homogeneous catalyst is desorbed by the with said aromatic amine and recirculated to the reaction.

6. (original) The process according to claim 1, wherein the reaction in step a) is carried out semicontinuously.

7. (original) The process according to claim 1, wherein the aromatic amine is selected from the group comprising aniline and alkyylanilines having from 1 to 3 carbons in the alkyl chain.

8. (original) The process according to claim 1, wherein the aromatic amine is selected from the group comprising aniline and o-toluidine.

9. (original) The process according to claim 1, wherein the methylene-donating agent is formaldehyde.

10. (currently amended) The process according to claim 1, wherein said methylene-donating agent ~~the formaldehyde~~ is used as aqueous formalin solution or paraformaldehyde.

11. (currently amended) The process according to claim 1, wherein said aromatic amine is aniline and said methylene-donating agent is formaldehyde and wherein a ~~the~~ molar ratio of aniline to ~~formaldehyde~~ formaldehyde is greater than 2.

12. (currently amended) The process according to claim 1, wherein said aromatic amine is aniline and wherein a ~~the~~ molar ratio of acid to aniline is greater than 0.05.

13. (original) The process according to claim 1, wherein mineral acids are used as homogeneous acid catalysts.

14. (new) The process according to claim 1, further comprising, after step b), neutralizing said acid catalyst with an alkali metal hydroxide solution.

15. (new) The process according to claim 1, wherein working up comprises at least one of phase separation, distillation and chromatographic separation.

16. (new) The process according to claim 1, further comprising reacting said diaminodiarylmethane with an alkylene oxide to form a polyether alcohol.

17. (new) The process according to claim 1, further comprising reacting said diaminodiarylmethane with phosgene to form a diarylmethane diisocyanate.

18. (new) The process according to claim 17, further comprising reacting said diarylmethane diisocyanate with a compound having at least two active hydrogen atoms to form a polyurethane.

19. (new) The process according to claim 1, wherein step b) is conducted at a flow rate of less than 30 bed volumes per hour.

20. (new) The process according to claim 1, wherein said solid absorber has an apparent diffusion coefficient of $> 10^{-8} \text{ cm}^2/\text{s}$.